

BREA CORBET

TRUSTEE - MISSISSAUGA, WARDS 9 AND 10

“Three things in human life are important. The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind. The third is to be kind.” – St Teresa of Calcutta



March 2020

This month, the virtue of **KINDNESS** reminds us that it costs nothing to demonstrate kindness. It’s hard not to feel happy, when you make someone smile. So smile! Pass it on. Every small act of kindness matters.

- **Lent begins with Ash Wednesday** – We prepare for the 40 days leading up to the feast and joy of Easter. May we turn to God in prayer, remembering the gift of His mercy and forgiveness. I look forward to sharing in our Shrove Tuesday and Lenten school masses. Consider the next 40 days. What will you give up? What will you gain?
- **National Nutrition Month** – Healthy food choices fuel healthy bodies and brains, improve student learning and contribute to academic success. We can lead by example. What’s one small change you can make to improve your family’s nutrition and eating habits? For more information, please visit: <https://food-guide.canada.ca/en>.
- **DPCDSB Budget 2020-2021** – On January 13, the Ministry of Education issued a memorandum inviting school boards to submit feedback on education funding for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year. The ministry is welcoming feedback on all areas pertaining to education funding, with a particular interest in receiving comments on initiatives that could support reducing red tape and administrative burden for the education sector.
- The DPCDSB prepared a submission highlighting specific areas of the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) funding model that should be reviewed and amended. These areas include: introducing a mechanism for sustainable investment in learning technologies, increasing funds for the operational and financial costs associated with increased absenteeism rates, expanding the current provincial benefit trust model to include all benefit costs, overhaul the current transportation grant to ensure appropriate and fair funding for all school boards, investing resources and funds to clear the backlog of school renewal projects, revising the special education grant to appropriately fund the resources and support required to meet the needs of all diverse learners, and identifying a source of funding to address increased costs for school boards dealing with heightened security concerns, defenses for cyber-attacks, increased accountability and transparency needs and overall mental health and well-being of students and staff.
- In response to the Ministry of Education’s B08 Memo - New Vision for Education, the Board of Trustees has expressed concern about the potential impact some of these changes may have on student achievement and well-being. We have articulated that e-learning, class sizes and the government-directed funding reductions will have an effect on our ability to provide the level of quality programming that students and parents expect. For more information please visit: <https://www3.dpcdsb.org/news/news-archives/information-ministry-of-education-new-vision-for-education>
- **Board Policy 8.50: Annual Budget Development Process** guides our budget development process and required inputs. It is expected that the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) for 2020-2021 will be announced by the Ministry of Education by the end of March. The final budget would be expected to be approved and filed with the Ministry by the end of June.

- **Community Engagement** – Opportunities will be provided to engage our communities and stakeholders in the DPCDSB budget development process to ensure public input is considered by the Board of Trustees.
 - Updates will be posted to the DPCDSB website www.dpcdsb.org to inform the community of consultation opportunities and ways in which input may be submitted.
 - Delegations at regular DPCDSB board and committee meetings are always welcome.
 - Information will be distributed to parents/guardians through school newsletters and at Catholic School Councils (CSC) meetings.
 - News releases and social media postings.
 - Public Budget Webcast – April 21, 2020 at 7pm.
- **OCSTA** – The Ontario Catholic Schools Trustee Association (OCSTA) is the provincial voice for Catholic Education. OCSTA represents the DPCDSB in central negotiations. OCSTA has submitted to the Ministry of Education funding and policy priorities of school boards for the 2020-2021 Grants for Student Needs (GSN) consultation. This submission identifies many critical areas of concern for publicly funded Catholic education in Ontario. Efficiencies in school board operations and reducing red tape, the moratorium on school closures, the e-learning framework, cybersecurity in schools and capital planning are some of the issues discussed. For more information and to review the public document available online, please visit the OCSTA website link: <https://www.ocsta.on.ca/ocsta/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/GSN-submission-2020-Final.pdf>
- **Cafeteria Services** – The Secondary Student Cafeteria Survey closed December 20, 2019. Thank you to everyone who participated. The results have been analyzed by the DPCDSB Research Department and were presented to the Board of Trustees on February 11, 2020. Stay tuned for ‘Have Your Say Day’, an interactive opportunity on how to improve your student cafeteria experience.
- **Ontario Newsroom** – On January 27, the province of Ontario announced a review of the current Student Transportation funding formula. Trustees are aware of the changing needs and costs incurred to school boards. The Auditor General’s 2015 report recommended the government review the funding formula. Families need reliable and effective transportation services for our children. More information will be coming forward.
- **Student Transportation** – At the February 4 Administration and Finance Committee meeting, the Board of Trustees received an update on the progress of Student Transportation of Peel Region’s (STOPR) service delivery for DPCDSB. STOPR initiatives include a new website www.stopr.ca, investigating a call centre solution, improving data flow of student information, school bus technology suite and review of procedures. Monthly performance measures indicate bus operators continue to have a dedicated driver for each route and driver retention continues to be strong. Delays are posted in a timely manner and service levels remain strong overall. STOPR communication and administration plans are the next stage of focus.
- **April 2, 2020** – In partnership with Peel Regional Police, DPCDSB Trustee Bruno Iannicca has arranged an informative Parent Engagement Presentation on Human Trafficking. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend.
Date: Thursday April 2, 2020
Location: Father Michael Goetz Catholic Secondary School - 330 Central Parkway W, Mississauga
Time: 7:00-9:00 pm
- **Secondary Student Volunteers** – SAVE THE DATE! The Ward 10 Lisgar Community Day is Sunday June 14, from 1:00-4:00pm at the Lisgar grounds (behind Lisgar Middle School), Mississauga. The 2020 Lisgar Residents Committee is looking for student volunteers to help at the event. Community service hours will be earned. Contact Jennifer DeMonte, planning chairperson. Email: jenniferadelmonte@gmail.com or phone: 647-923-7198.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. I also invite you to follow me on my social media platforms. If you are a DPCDSB parent/guardian, please ensure that you have provided your child's school with your email address, in order to receive Community Information Bulletins and other important communications directly from the DPCDSB.

Wishing all our students and families a safe and enjoyable time over the March Break holidays!

For more fun things to do over March break, check out DPCDSB Community Bulletin Board: ow.ly/KAWB50ygxgU

Yours in learning, growing and leading with Christ,

Brea Corbet

Trustee - Mississauga, Wards 9 and 10

Chair – Administration and Finance Committee

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

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